

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT REGARDING
FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL

REFS: A) MOSCOW 14272, SEPT. 20, 1974

B) STATE A-5064, JUNE 21, 1974

C) STATE A-4626, JUNE 7, 1974

D) MOSCOW 10731, SEPT. 7, 1973

E) MOSCOW 7324, JUNE 21, 1973

F) STATE A-1157, FEB. 7, 1973

1. SUMMARY. REFS REVEAL THAT SOVIETS HAVE RESISTED OUR
INFORMAL APPROACH TO HAVE SOVIET UNION BECOME ONE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF
THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL (T.I.A.S.3597). STATE AIR-
GRAM A-1157 (REF F), BEST EXPLAINS OUR POSITION AS IT
WAS IN EARLY 1973. THIS CABLE UPDATES SITUATION AND
REQUESTS EMBASSY TO AGAIN APPROACH SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE.

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END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT MUST AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT APPROACH TO
SOVIETS MUST BE ON INFORMAL BASIS BECAUSE USG, AS MANAGER

OF NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL, MAY NOT FORMALLY INVITE
SOVIET UNION TO ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL UNTIL IT HAS FORMALLY

ASKED THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT WHETHER THEY
APPROVE OF INVITING SOVIET UNION TO BECOME A PARTY.

3. FIGURES IN THIRD PARAGRAPH OF REF (F) UPDATED AS
FOLLOWS: DURING 1974 ICE SEASON, APPROX. 1,800,000
GROSS TONS OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPPING BENEFITED FROM
SERVICE OF NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL. ONE MILLION TONS
RESULTED FROM VOYAGES ACROSS NORTH ATLANTIC TO AND FROM
U.S. EAST AND GULF COAST PORTS. NEARLY 800,000 TONS
RESULTED FROM SOVIET VOYAGES ACROSS NORTH ATLANTIC TO
AND FROM CANADIAN PORTS, BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT
SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THESE 800,000 TONS RESULTED FROM
VOYAGES WHOSE ULTIMATE ORIGINS OR DESTINATIONS WERE U.S.
GREAT LAKES PORTS. SOVIET GROSS TONNAGE FOR 1974 IS
GREATER THAN THAT OF SEVEN OF THE NATIONS PARTY TO
THE AGREEMENT IN 1974 -- DENMARK, BELGIUM, YUGOSLAVIA,
CANADA, NETHERLANDS, FINLAND, AND ISRAEL. HAD SOVIET
UNION BEEN A PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT IN 1974, THEIR PRO-
PORTIONATE SHARE OF THE COST OF NORTH ATLANTIC ICE
PATROL WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROX. DOLLARS 19,000. TOTAL
COST FOR 1974 WAS DOLLARS 967,888, AND WILL BE SHARED
PROPORTIONATELY BETWEEN THE 19 PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT
IN 1974. TOTAL GROSS TONNAGE OF THESE NATIONS' SHIPS
BENEFITING FROM THE ICE PATROL IN 1974 WAS 89,177,574
TONS. ANOTHER 7,200,000 TONS OF SHIPPING FROM NATIONS,
INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, NOT PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT
ALSO BENEFITED FROM SERVICES OF ICE PATROL IN 1974.
OF NON-PARTY NATIONS, SOVIET UNION WAS FOREMOST IN
TONNAGE BENEFITING.

4. AFTER SOVIET UNION, THE NON-PARTY NATION WHOSE SHIPS
BENEFITED MOST FROM NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL SERVICES
IN 1974 WAS POLAND, WITH APPROX. 819,000 GROSS TONS.
POLAND ACCEPTED THE AGREEMENT REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT
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OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL ON APRIL 22, 1975, AND
WILL BE ONE OF THOSE NATIONS HELPING SUPPORT ICE PATROL
FOR 1975 SEASON.

5. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY
AVERIN, REPORTED IN REF A, DEPARTMENT AND U.S. COAST
GUARD DO NOT KNOW OF ANY SOURCE OTHER THAN THE NORTH
ATLANTIC ICE PATROL WHICH COULD HAVE PROVIDED THE ICE
INFORMATION WHICH AVERIN SAYS SOVIETS OBTAIN FROM WMO
AND SOVIET METEOROLOGIC ORGANIZATION. THIS INFORMATION
IS GATHERED AND PROCESSED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE
PATROL, AND BROADCAST OVER COAST GUARD RADIO BOSTON,

U.S. NAVY RADIO NORFOLK, TWO CANADIAN MARITIME RADIOS (ST. JOHNS AND MILL COVE), A UK RADIO (BRACKNELL) AND A FRG RADIO (HAMBURG/PINNEBERG) FOR USE BY ALL VESSELS CROSSING THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. IT IS CLEAR TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COAST GUARD THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BENEFITING FROM THE SERVICES OF NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL. NINETEEN NATIONS (20 AFTER 1975) PRESENTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THESE SERVICES, AND IN 1974, SEVEN OF THESE NATIONS' GROSS TONNAGE BENEFITING FROM THESE SERVICES WAS LESS THAN THE GROSS TONNAGE OF THE SOVIET UNION VESSELS BENEFITING. EMBASSY MOSCOW PLEASE ACQUAINT AVERIN AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS CABLE AND ASK THAT THEY AGAIN RECONSIDER WHETHER THEY MIGHT FAVORABLY ACCEPT A FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE USG TO ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL AND THEREBY BECOME A PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT. INGERSOLL

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